

GRANTEE:

White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians

PROGRAM TITLE:

The White Earth Learning in the Family Environment Project

PROGRAM PERIOD:

Cohort 1 (September 30, 2010 to September 29, 2015)

KEY GRANTEE PROGRAM STAFF

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Pat Butler	Project Director	218-983-3286	patb@whiteearth.com
Jen Stevens	Home Health Manager	218-983-3286	jens@whiteearth.com
Sarah Snetsinger	Program Coordinator	218-983-3286	sarabs@whiteearth.com
Cyndi Anderson	Evaluator	218-847-4257	cyndi@mosaicconsultinginc.com

GOAL OF THE PROGRAM

The goals of the White Earth Learning in the Family Environment (LIFE) Project are: to improve maternal and newborn health; reduce the number of children's visits to the emergency department; improve children's school readiness and achievement; reduce domestic violence; improve family economic self-sufficiency; and improve coordination with and referral to other community resources and supports.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT FOR THE PROGRAM

State:	Minnesota
Rural or Urban/Reservation or Non-Reservation:	Rural Reservation
Description of Service Area:	The White Earth Reservation is located in northwestern Minnesota. The reservation covers 1,300 square miles and includes 3 counties: Mahnomen, Becker, and Clearwater. The White Earth Reservation includes 5 incorporated cities and 5 major villages. The Reservation has 11 communities ranging in size from 50 to 1,200 people within its boundaries. There are 9,188 people living on the White Earth Reservation, of which 4,029 identify themselves as American Indian.
Births Per Year:	Total births for the counties, which are all or part on the White Earth Reservation (Minnesota KIDS COUNT 2010) are: Mahnomen County 118 births; Clearwater County 110 births; Becker County 427 births.
Children Ages Birth to 5 Years in Target Community:	The U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2006-2010) there are 795 children under the age of 5 years on the White Earth Reservation.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT FOR THE PROGRAM (continued)

Unique Characteristics of Target Community:	<p>One of the community's strengths is the meaningful way in which Elders and program recipients are engaged in the strategic development of programs and services. This is reflective of the White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians (WEBCI) cultural values of inclusion, respect, and tradition. Additional cultural strengths include the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family, nurturing, and attachment • the parent and child relationship, and youth development • the emphasis on understanding, working through, and healing from historical trauma in an effort to build parental resilience • connecting families with supportive social networks through pow wows, cultural feasts, and other activities • ensuring that families have what they need to take care of themselves and the community, consistent with cultural teachings.
Key Community Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program • Essentia Health-St. Mary's Hospital • White Earth Tribal Mental Health • White Earth Health Education • Dream Catcher Homes • Community Representatives • White Earth Head Start • Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) • White Earth Substance Abuse Program • White Earth Diabetes Project • Wellbriety Center • White Earth Drug Court • Local school districts • Indian Health Service (IHS)
Primary Risk Factors in Target Community:	<p>The primary risk factors for the target community include high poverty, high levels of family crisis, suicides, alcohol and drug abuse, and out-of-home placements.</p>

PROGRAM DELIVERY CONTEXT

Organization Type Administering the Program:	<p>The White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized tribal organization.</p>
Implementing Agency:	<p>White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians (White Earth Nation)</p>
Target Population:	<p>The target population is pregnant women and mothers/caregivers with children 0-3 years of age living on the White Earth Reservation. The clients are categorized into the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-time, low-income mothers (NFP); • Multiparous, low-income mothers (NFP Pilot Project); • Pregnant women living on the reservation (LIFE); and • Parent/caregiver with children 0-3 years of age living on the reservation (LIFE).
Target and Actual Numbers Served:	<p>The LIFE Project will serve 120 mothers/caregivers (30 NFP mothers and 90 LIFE mothers/caregivers per year).</p>

HOME VISITING MODEL SELECTED

The LIFE Project is using the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) home visiting model. White Earth is a pilot site for multiparous mothers.

KEY MODEL ADAPTATIONS OR ENHANCEMENTS

The LIFE Project serves children from birth through age 2 using NFP, and children ages 2 to 5 using the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program Parent Mentor Program. Cultural adaptations to NFP include using the Ojibwe language; using books, stories, and materials that reflect activities that are culturally connected to the community; and embedding storytelling, cultural, and traditional values into each lesson. WEBCI also received permission from NFP to adapt the nurse home visitor credentials, caseloads, and supervision requirements, as well as to provide services to multiparous mothers. The Parent Mentor Program curriculum has the National Indian Child Welfare Association's (NICWA) Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) at its core, incorporating components of the Brazelton Touchpoints, Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI), and Media Wise parenting curricula. The LIFE Project includes co-visits including both nurse home visitors and parent mentors in the weeks leading up to transition of a family from NFP to the Parent Mentor Program.

DESCRIPTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

Several of the Tribe's programs collaborate to serve the needs of pregnant women, young children, and families. These programs and agencies include mental health, Indian Child Welfare, child care, and Head Start. Staff communication and collaboration across programs has helped create networks for aligned services. To help improve data collection efforts and facilitate coordinated service delivery, WEBCI is developing Rite Track, a comprehensive and shared database. Advisory councils and committees are in place and include representatives from tribal and non-tribal agencies, families, and Elders.

Collaborative relationships with neighboring school districts have been developed with help of the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program. In response to student needs, the Readmobile, Early Childhood Initiative, and other programs and initiatives were put in place and continue to evolve.

EVALUATION APPROACH

Evaluation Question

Do multiparous moms who receive services through Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) enhanced engagement strategy access community resources and complete service referrals at a higher rate than prior to enrollment in NFP program?

Evaluation Design

The LIFE Project will use an Interrupted Time-Series Design to compare a series of observations that occurred prior to the treatment (via historical data for individual clients) with observations that occurred after the treatment.

KEY FEDERAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) STAFF:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
Carrie Peake	Federal Project Officer	202-690-6059	Carrie.Peake@acf.hhs.gov
Jennifer Rackliff	PATH TA Specialist (Programmatic TA)	202-470-0596	JRackliff@zerotothree.org
Julie Morales	TEI Liaison (Evaluation TA)	720-839-7275	morales@jbassoc.com

